

MISSOURI BOARD OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR AND PRIVATE FIRE INVESTIGATOR EXAMINERS



FEBRUARY 2023

This is an official publication of the
Division of Professional Registration.



MISSOURI DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

GOVERNOR
The Honorable
Michael L. Parson

MISSOURI DCI
Chlora Lindley-Myers
Director

**DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL
REGISTRATION**
Sheila Solon
Division Director

BOARD MEMBERS
Douglas E Mitchell
Chairperson
Private Investigator
Warrensburg, MO

Thomas Skinner
Vice Chairperson
Private Investigator
Jacksonville, MO

Charles Giessing
Private Fire Investigator
Farmington, MO

J. Dwight McNeil
Private Investigator
Ozark, MO

Kenneth McGhee
Public Member
Florissant, MO

1 Private Fire Investigator Vacancy
1 Public Member Vacancy

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Executive Director

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CONGRATULATIONS SHEILA SOLON!

It's official! Sheila Solon is the Division Director for Missouri's Division of Professional Registration. Appointed as Acting Division Director on January 6, 2021, she is now officially our Division Director. We are fortunate to have such a committed and energetic person as our guiding force in caring for Missouri's licensed professionals and the citizens of Missouri who they serve.

**Sheila Solon and
Governor Parson**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR ON MOPRO



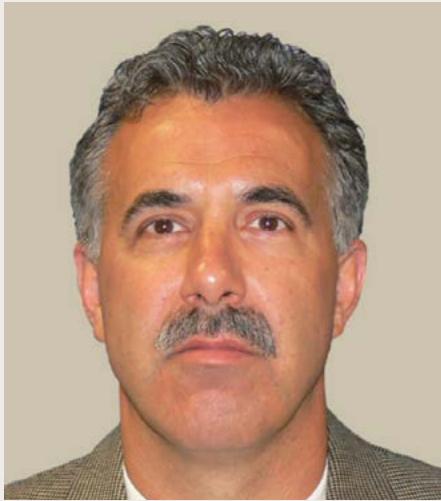
Sheila Solon
**DIRECTOR OF DIVISION
OF PROFESSIONAL
REGISTRATION**

Professional Registration is thrilled to announce MOPRO, a new e-licensure system that will transform how more than 525,000 Missouri licensees in 300 professions do business with their licensure board. Through the use of American Recovery Act funding that was secured with the help and support of the Governor and Legislature, we will be modernizing and transforming how we conduct business for generations to come. Imagine the ability to obtain a professional license online, anywhere, anytime. This digital transformation strategically aligns with the Governor's initiative to focus on workforce development to meet the needs of the future.

- Ability to apply for and/or renew any professional license online
- Track license status and follow up requests
- Process payments with protection of personal information
- Download and print from the portal
- Reduce time and effort to procure a license
- Provide one true source of data
- Easy Online payment for Missourians

The greatest benefit is that it will empower applicants and licensees to have more control over their own future and destiny by vastly improving access to their application status and the ability to enter their own data into the system. This will also allow licensees to have access to their data 24/7, allowing them to obtain and renew their license faster and get them into the workforce sooner.

GREETINGS PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS AND PRIVATE FIRE INVESTIGATORS:



**DOUGLAS E. MITCHELL,
CHAIR OF COMMITTEE**

I am fortunate to presently serve as chairperson of the Missouri Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners. For the past 44 years, I have practiced primarily in the Warrensburg area in civil litigation support. In 2008, Governor Blunt appointed me as a member of the original board. I served as vice-chair until 2017. In 2019, Governor Parsons reappointed me to the board.

Considering the numerous changes to the composition of the board over the last three years, I would like to acknowledge and recognize both past and new members. Mr. Tom Skinner was appointed by Governor Parsons in September 2019 replacing long-time chairperson, Mr. Dwight McNeil. Mr. Skinner is the owner of Tom Skinner & Associates, LLC which conducts civil and criminal investigations based in the north central area of the state. Previously, Mr. Skinner served as Chief Deputy for the Macon County Sheriff's Office and Livingston County Sheriff's Office. He also served for 25 years as a senior conservation agent for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Mr. Skinner is a licensed instructor for the Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training Program.

In addition, I had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Tim Flora of Mid-West Protective Service in St. Louis, MO for many years and want to commend his service to the board. Mr. Flora's resignation in February of 2022 was simply a matter of time as he is a busy man. In addition to the PI Board, Mr. Flora also serves as the board chairperson for the Metro West Fire Protection District and as the board chairperson for the Central County Emergency 911 Dispatch Center, both in St. Louis County. Additionally, he is a board member for the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis. Mr. Flora's background as both a law enforcement officer, fire protection district board member, and long-time private investigator were evident in his preparation for board meetings. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Mr. Flora for his exceptional service.

In October 2022, Governor Parsons appointed Mr. Dwight McNeil as Mr. Flora's replacement. Mr. McNeil previously served as the Christian County sheriff from 1985, chief deputy of the Christian County Sheriff's Office from 1981-1984 and interim Christian County Sheriff in 2015. Since 1988, Mr. McNeil has owned and operated Midwest Intelligence, Inc., a private investigation firm. Mr. McNeil was a member of the original board as he was appointed in 2008 by Governor Blunt. Mr. McNeil served continuously as chairperson until 2019. Mr. McNeil was instrumental in drafting, organizing, and improving the original legislation for the licensure of private investigators to be passed in the State of Missouri. In concert with his long previous tenure on the board, Mr. McNeil is acknowledged by board members and staff as having the most historical knowledge both regarding the history of the board as well as legislative changes, statutes, and rules. I think I can speak for the board and staff that we are all pleased to have Mr. McNeil back in the room for board meetings considering his unique knowledge concerning the practice in Missouri.

I would also like to mention the two other current members: Private Fire Investigator Mr. Charles Giessing and our Public Member Ken McGhee. Mr. McGhee is currently the longest serving member of the board. Mr. Giessing and Mr. McGhee bring an invaluable wealth of knowledge and experience from their respective careers.

Certainly, the last two years of COVID have been challenging for licensees and the public in general. Fortunately, Missouri did not suffer under as many harsh mandates as enacted in other states, but it has been a trying time as our profession has had to adapt. Still, it should be noted that in 2020 we had

652 private investigators, private fire investigators and agency investigators. There were 133 agencies licensed in the state at that time. While there was somewhat of a downturn during COVID, the most recent numbers from the staff reflect Missouri may not have been hit as hard as other states as there are currently 700 private investigators, private fire investigators and agency investigators, with a total of 130 agencies.

Our board is both passionate and diligent regarding the licensing of professionals in our state, and I believe what we do is important as we balance the interests of both large and small firms while managing licensing fees to ensure the viability of the board and division. The board and staff have worked hard to make the licensing and renewal processes as simple as possible. Executive Director Pam Groose and her staff are the backbone that allow us to make sure our state maintains the highest professional standards.

It is our goal to continue to work towards an environment that will guide all our licensees to strive to operate successful professional practices.

REMINDERS

CE Reminder: Don't wait until the last minute to turn in Continuing Education hours. Even though PI's don't have to turn in CE's until February 28, 2024 and AIE's don't need to turn in their CE's until April 30, 2024, now is the perfect time to complete those CE hours and get them turned in. Check out the list of Current and Upcoming pre-approved CE Offerings which can be accessed from a link on the PI homepage, <https://pr.mo.gov/boards/pi/Current-and-Upcoming-CE.pdf>. Since these courses are pre-approved, there is no need to submit the paperwork and \$10 fee necessary when you choose to take a course which is **not** pre-approved; simply submit a copy of the certificate of completion provided by the pre-approved course. In addition to the list of pre-approved courses on our website, any course which is approved by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST) is automatically pre-approved by the Board of PI and PFI Examiners, and therefore does **not** require the course review paperwork and fee. Remember, too, that you may obtain one hour of CE credit for attending an open meeting session of the Missouri Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners.

Photo Reminder: To all you agency office managers, Private Investigators In Charge, and Private Fire Investigators In Charge who have new employees sending in applications for licensure, please make sure they follow directions related to the two pictures we require with the application. Photos should be 2-inch by 2-inch headshots with a plain white background on photo quality paper, similar to those required for a passport. We recommend going to Walgreens or another business which does passport photos to obtain these photos. Since these photos are used to produce the employees' ID cards, the quality of the photos is important.

Termination Notice Reminder: All Agencies are required to notify the Board office any time an Agency Employee leaves employment with the agency. **Within 5 business days of termination**, the license and pocket ID are to be returned to the office by the agency along with a letter indicating the termination date.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN

JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

Michael W Bland- Private Investigator, 2014011905:

3-Year Probation | December 22, 2021-December 22, 2024

Licensee violated Statute Section 324.1134.2(2), (3), (4), (5) (9) and (10) RSMo. which states in pertinent part. 2. The Board may cause a complaint to be filed with the administrative hearing commission as provided by chapter 621, RSMo, against any holder of any permit or license required by sections 324.1100 to 324.1148 or any person who has failed to renew or has surrendered the person's certificate of registration or authority, permit or license for any one or any combination of the following causes: (2) Violating any provision of sections 324.1100 to 324.1148.

CURRENT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Charlie Baker-Private Investigator, 2011009108

License Revoked-August 15, 2021

Administrative Hearing Commission found that licensee was subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 324.1134.2(2), (3), and (9).

DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure that the above enforcement information is correct. However, this information should not be relied upon without verification from the Board office. Discipline orders are public information and copies may be obtained via the website at pr.mo.gov/pi, under Sub Navigation "Disciplined Licensees". A licensee is entitled to engage in the practice of private investigation during his/her probationary period providing that the licensee adheres to all of the terms and conditions of the Order. However, a licensee whose license has been suspended, is not entitled to engage in the practice of private investigation during the suspension.

BOARD MEMBER NEWS

FAREWELL

We bid a fond farewell to board member Tim Flora who resigned from the board effective February 14, 2022. Mr. Flora was appointed by Governor Jay Nixon as a member of the Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners on February 12, 2013. His vast experience in both law enforcement and private investigation have served the Board well for the duration of his term. We are grateful for his willingness to serve and his dedication to the private investigation field.



BACK ON BOARD

Governor Michael Parson appointed Dwight McNeil to the Missouri Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners on June 1, 2022 to take effect June 1, 2022. Mr. McNeil is not a new face to the board, but a returning member. He was actually one of the first members of the newly enacted Board of Private Investigator Examiners appointed by then Governor Matt Blunt in March 2008. (At that time, Private Fire Investigators were not yet a part of our board.) We appreciate his service to the board at that time in helping establish the licensure system we now have in place and are happy to have his wisdom and experience back on the board.



NEW BOARD CHAIRPERSON

At the February 10, 2022 meeting of the Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners, Doug Mitchell was elected as the new chairperson of the board. Mr. Mitchell has served on the Board since being appointed by Governor Matt Blunt in March 2008 as one of the initial members of the newly enacted Board of Private Investigator Examiners. We appreciate his years of service and his willingness to use his experience in leading our Board.



JUST FOR LAUGHS

What do you call an alligator in a vest?

An in-vest-i-gator!

RENEWAL

Around our office, the word ‘renewal’ is sort of a four-letter word, something we dread like going to the dentist to get a cavity filled. When renewal time hits in our office, life gets a little bit stressful: the paper piles get considerably deeper, the e-mail inboxes fill up much more quickly, and the phones ring off the hook. Renewal time surely adds a little more stress to your life as well: ensuring all continuing education is completed, making sure fire certification is up-to-date, obtaining current certificates of insurance, providing new photos for your ID card, getting renewal forms and fees sent off. We are ALL glad the 2022 renewal period is behind us.

However, it would be a loss to us all if we didn’t take advantage of the renewal period to truly renew. What a perfect opportunity to renew our professional zest by reflecting on why we chose the profession we did! Along with paying fees and completing paperwork, we need to remind ourselves of all the little things we enjoy about our job, those things that drew us into the profession to begin with. As we check off another round of CE’s completed, we need to revitalize our professional spirit by implementing some of the new ideas and approaches we’ve picked up through our continuing education. While we’re starting off on yet another cycle of work, we need to rekindle our appreciation for those people with whom, and for whom, we work who add a little more joy and purpose to our lives. When we approach renewal time with a true spirit of rejuvenation, we might actually look forward to the next renewal period instead of dreading it. It’ll be here again before we know it!

PI RULE CHANGE

Effective November 30, 2022, CSR 2234-5.010 was amended to read as follows:

20 CSR 2234-5.010 Examination PURPOSE: This rule establishes examination requirements.

(1) Applicants not exempt from examination shall present themselves for examination on the date and time and at the place specified by the board. (A) An applicant who fails the examination may, upon written application, be granted permission to sit again for the examination. (B) No person may apply to sit for, and take, the examination more than four (4) times within a twelve (12) month period. (2) The following applicants are exempt from examination: (A) An applicant whose complete application is filed with the board, and who is able to show two (2) years of lawful practice within the past three (3) years from the date the application was complete; (B) An applicant eligible under reciprocity pursuant to section 324.009, RSMo; and (C) Law enforcement officers pursuant to section 324.1146, RSMo.

AUTHORITY: section 324.1110, RSMo Supp. 2022, and section 324.1138, RSMo 2016.* Original rule filed June 26, 2009, effective Jan. 30, 2010. Amended: Filed Oct. 8, 2020, effective April 30, 2021. Amended: Filed May 18, 2022, effective Nov. 30, 2022. *Original authority: 324.1110, RSMo 2007, amended 2010, 2011, 2018, and 324.1138, RSMo 2007, amended 2011.

Applicants are still required to have 2 years of experience in order to be exempt from taking the exam, but now that experience can be within the previous 3 years. Also, examination exemption is extended to current law enforcement officers certified under existing peace officer standards and training requirements as well as applicants who are licensed private investigators in another state.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Douglas E Mitchell

Private Investigator

Chairperson

Warrensburg, Missouri



Thomas Skinner

Private Investigator

Vice Chairperson

Jacksonville, Missouri



Charles Giessing

Private Fire Investigator

Member

Farmington, Missouri



J Dwight McNeil

Private Investigator

Member

Ozark, Missouri



Kenneth McGhee

Public Member

Florissant, Missouri



Pam Groose

Executive Director

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners offers our heartfelt thanks to all who have served professionally to help the citizens of Missouri. We'd like to recognize those of you who have reached a milestone as a licensed Private Investigator, Agency Investigator Employee, or Private Investigator Agency in our state.

10 YEARS AS A LICENSED PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR – LICENSED IN 2012

VIDAL ALEXANDER, RAYTOWN, MO

RODNEY BAKER, TULSA, OK

PAUL COLBERT, SAINT PETERSBURG, FL

ROBERT GAGE, O FALLOON, MO

RAYMOND GILLIS, SUWANEE, GA

ADELE "LINDA" KALMBACH, FLOWER MOUND, TX

WILLIAM KEANEY, SAINT LOUIS, MO

DERRICK MARSHALL, MERRITT ISLAND, FL

BILL PIERCE, ROGERS, AR

TIMOTHY SCHNAKENBERG, INDEPENDENCE, MO

PAUL SUPAL, MARLTON, NJ

JAMES WOMBLE, MIDDLE BROOK, MO

LOUIS WRIGHT, TROY, MO

10 YEARS AS A LICENSED AGENCY INVESTIGATOR EMPLOYEE – LICENSED IN 2012

MARK CALANDRO, DENTON, TX

CLAUDETTE HOGAN, DENTON, TX

SHAUN HULETTE, THOMASVILLE, NC

LOUIS PHILLIPS, RALEIGH, NC

MICHAEL TETI, EL MACERO, CA

DUNCAN TULLY, SAINT LOUIS, MO

JOSHUA VEAH, SAINT LOUIS, MO

RACHELE WOODS, OZARK, MO

10 YEARS AS A LICENSED AGENCY-LICENSED IN 2012

AVANSIC INC TULSA, OK

BEACON INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC

COLUMBUS, OH

DELTA ASSOCIATED INVESTIGATIONS INC

SUWANEE, GA

PHILLIPS & ASSOCIATES INC OF GEORGIA

TOCCOA, GA

STATISTICS FY 18-22

PI/PFI FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS

PI/PFI Board Licenses Issued	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Private Investigator	35	37	24	41	30
Agency Investigator	87	75	63	84	109
Private Investigator Agency	9	9	6	8	8
Private Fire Investigator	3	4	1	0	3
Agency Fire Investigator Employee	5	11	3	9	5
Private Fire Investigator Agency	0	2	1	1	6

PI/PFI Board	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Complaints Opened	12	15	5	8	15
Complaints Closed	12	12	2	9	12
Disciplines	2	3	0	0	1